

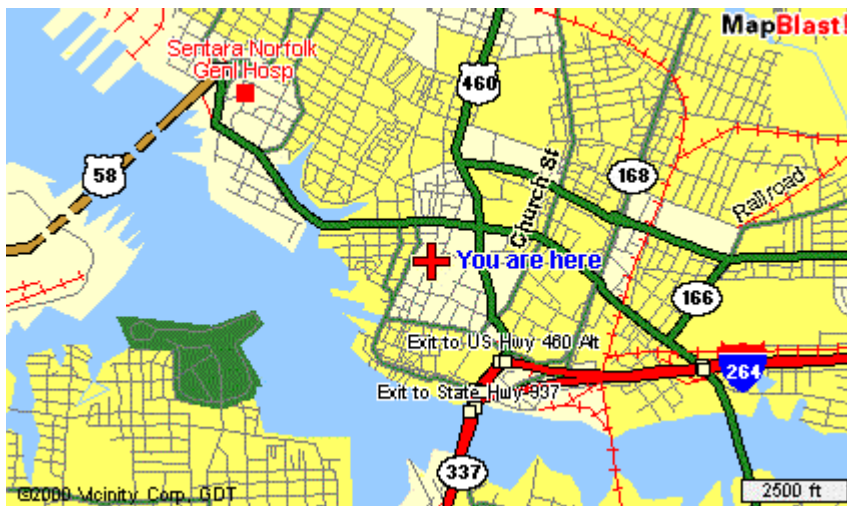
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Norfolk, Virginia

Profile of Drug Indicators

January, 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Norfolk, Virginia

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 215,215

Politics²

- Mayor: Paul Fraim
- City Council Members: Mason C. Andrews MD, Herbert Martel Collins Sr. , Dawn S. Hester, G. Conoly Phillips, Paul R. Riddick, W. Randy White
- Chief of Police: Melvin C. High

Programs/Initiatives³

- Project DARE in Norfolk has been implemented in all levels of the school system, as well as in private and parochial schools. A related DARE Parent Program is also offered. DARE training is provided for students in 56 public schools and 8 private elementary level school. DARE Program continues to be a leader in drug education for our children in Norfolk. Tens of thousands of fifth, eighth and tenth graders have been reached by the DARE message. Our first class of DARE students, who were taught by officers in 1987, is now sophomores in college. These young adults are better equipped than those students before them to make decisions about their lives. DARE Officers, in partnership with the Norfolk Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, have expanded their efforts to educate our citizens about the dangers of drugs. Parents of children who have been charged with minor offenses and first time offenders, are being court ordered to attend classes being taught by officers who are specially trained to instruct the DARE Parent Program.
- Active participation in "**Just Say No Clubs**" with students. These are generally "open dialogue" sessions with students and counselors allowing the children to discuss and explore positive alternatives to drug use, violence, gangs, low self-esteem, and other issues of importance affecting today's youth. These sessions generally meet during the school day, or shortly thereafter.
- Another method of reinforcing the drug resistance strategy is "**Career Day**", a popular event in most schools. Through the use of static displays, demonstrations by various departmental personnel, and available literature, students can examine a possible career in law enforcement.
- DARE Officers are also involved with the Norfolk Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in the "**Street Law**" Program. This program targets first time juvenile offenders, who are charged with petite larceny, assault, or concealment of a weapon. These lessons are frank discussions about decision-making skills, police/citizen contacts, mechanics of the justice system, and support systems currently in place to aid them. Street Law is one component of a six-part process

bringing about successful completion of probation requirements, as set forth by the Norfolk Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

During the summer, the **National Summer Youth Program** is held at Norfolk State University. Our DARE instructors represent the Norfolk Police Department as guest speakers to reemphasize the dangers of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and violence. The Old Dominion/Larchmont Summer Program utilizes DARE instructors to assist Parks and Recreation personnel to coordinate children's games, contests, sports, and the summer lunch program.

- The Crime Prevention Section sponsors and participates in **Law Explorer Post 191**. There are three officers assigned as adult advisors. It is a youth and young adult program of the Boy Scouts of America, designed to furnish participants additional skills and more information on law enforcement careers.
- The **D.A.R.E. Parent Program** is intended for families of children who are presently in the D.A.R.E. program and other interested adults. The focus is on developing better skills to interact with children, learning about peer pressures and identifying signs and reducing risks of potential substance abuse. The program consists of four or five, two-hour sessions generally held in the evening. Session topics include: Building self-esteem, listening skills, communication skills, risk factors, peer pressure, resistance skills, media messages, drug recognition, and reasons for drug use.
- The overview of **PACE** which follows is reprinted from a Program Summary published by the **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. department of Justice** entitled "*Innovative Community Partnerships: Working Together for Change.*" The Summary on **PACE** was prepared by Roberta C. Cronin, a consultant with the American Institute for Research. We are grateful for this opportunity to share this work which is a comprehensive and insightful description of **PACE**. The "*Norfolk facts*" presented at the end of the report were compiled by Norfolk city staff. We are sharing Norfolk's experience in working to develop and implement the **PACE** philosophy in the hope that other communities may benefit from our efforts.
- **PACE** (Police Assisted Community Enforcement) is a dynamic program designed by the City of Norfolk, Virginia to encompass the entire community in a strategically planned executed series of on-going events and activities aimed at giving citizens control of their neighborhoods. Through innovative partnerships between and among governmental agencies, citizen groups, voluntary and religious organizations, the business community and others, PACE strives to reduce crime and violence by emphasizing cooperation, teamwork, and collaboration.

Recognizing that maintaining public safety is not solely a law enforcement responsibility, city agencies such as Planning and Codes Administration, Public Health, Human Services, Public Schools, Redevelopment and Housing and Parks

and Recreation work as partners with the police to deal with the myriad of problems which confront communities and particularly those seriously impacted by illegal drug activity and its resulting crime and violence. Similarly, as the word implies, **PACE** requires citizen involvement. Interaction with citizens is essential to **PACE** whether it be through individuals, resident and tenant groups, etc. or through the collaborative efforts of voluntary agencies, the military, service organizations, religious groups, businesses, universities, and so forth.

Whether it is called community oriented policing, community-oriented government or **PACE**, today's public safety initiatives must focus on the community and have the support and participation of all who are members of the community. Success depends upon working together in partnerships of all kinds to make our communities crime free and safe for all.

- Drug Free Communities Grantee:
The James Barry Robinson Institute, D/B/A The Barry Robinson Center was awarded \$89,953.00 ⁴

Crime and Drug-Related Crime⁵

- There were 16,188 index crimes known to the police in Norfolk, Va. In 1998.

Crime Index Offenses in Norfolk, Virginia 1998	
Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	32
Forcible Rape	158
Robbery	732
Aggravated Assault	646
Burglary	2,214
Larceny-theft	11,137
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,269
Arson	116
Crime Index Total	16,188

Enforcement

In 1998, Norfolk, Virginia employed a total of 821 people in law enforcement; 705 were police officers and 116 were civilians.⁶

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² Norfolk, Virginia Web site: <http://www.norfolk.va.us/home.htm>

³ Ibid

⁴ ONDCP Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

⁵ FBI *Crime in the United States* 1998, October 1999

⁶ Ibid

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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